

**State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards  
Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) Proposal Form**

Please review the SEP FAQ prior to completing this form. Once the form is submitted, it will be sent to the appropriate Regional Board for consideration of inclusion on that Board's SEP List. The Regional Board will follow-up directly with the applicant if any additional information is necessary. If you have general questions about submitting a SEP proposal, please contact Jennifer McGovern at

[Jennifer.McGovern@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.McGovern@waterboards.ca.gov).

Name of Project: 12th Street Integrated Stormwater Enhancement Project (CIP #9101)

Project Applicant: City of Fortuna

Address: 180 Dinsmore Drive, Fortuna, Humboldt County, CA 95540

Contact Person and Title: Christopher Christianson, Chief Treatment Plant Operator

Contact phone number and email: (707)725-1476; cchristianson@ci.fortuna.ca.us

Project Category (check one or more)

- ☐ Public health
- ☐ Pollution prevention
- ☒ Pollution reduction
- ☒ Environmental restoration and protection
- ☐ Assessments and audits
- ☐ Environmental compliance promotion
- ☐ Other project with environmental and/or public health benefits

Project Location (include, as appropriate, city, county, address, waterbody)

12th Street, between K Street and Loni Drive in Fortuna, Humboldt County. This project will beneficially effect Rohner Creek & Strongs Creek, tributaries of the Eel River.

## Project Description

The project includes the installation of approximately 24 rain-garden low impact development (LID) basins along both sides of 12th Street between K Street and Loni Drive in Fortuna, Humboldt County. The project also includes one large basin on the southern boundary of the Fortuna Union High School parking lot. New storm-drain pipes will interconnect the LID basins and then connect them to the existing storm-drain system that begins on I Street near the High School.

Brief work plan containing tasks, deliverables, milestones, and schedule. The deliverables must include quarterly progress reports and a final completion report.

Summer 2021: Finalize grant agreement and contract with engineering consultant;

Fall/Winter/Spring 2021-2022: Develop design documents and bid for construction;

Summer 2022: Construct project.

Fall 2022 - Spring 2024: Monitor project for performance criteria, perform public outreach, develop draft and final project reports, develop operations and maintenance plan.

March 1, 2024: SEP Completion Date

In general, this project will be governed by a grant agreement between the State Water Quality Control Board and the City of Fortuna. The grant agreement is currently in development and specific deliverables and timelines have yet to be established, however the simple schedule noted above is the general timeline that the City and the Board have targeted.

Total project cost and amount of SEP money requested. If there are other funding sources, indicate if the funds have been committed and whether there are any restrictions on the funds.

The total budget for the 12th Street LID project is \$1,051,000. The City proposes using the total penalty amount of the MMPs (\$45,000) on this project. The City received a Prop 1 Technical Assistance Grant from the SWRCB in the amount of \$145,000 in January 2019. That grant required no matching funds and funded the development of the original funding application in 2020. It continues to fund assistance from consultant engineers on concept designs. The project received an additional grant from Prop 1, which was awarded in February 2021 in the amount of \$945,850 for final design and construction of the project. This grant requires a 10% City match of approximately \$105,000. The funds from the MMPs will be utilized to assist with this match of funds for the project.

Project readiness, including status of CEQA, permits, and landowner agreements

The project has already surpassed the 30% design milestone. The City has completed outreach to Fortuna Union High School, including a Maintenance Agreement and Letter of Support. City staff have also presented the project to City Council and received a Letter of Support. The City will be preparing and completing CEQA for the project in late 2021, prior to the completion of the 100% design in early 2022.

Expected benefits or improvements to water quality or beneficial uses

The installation of rain-garden LID basins will directly benefit surface water quality by increasing stormwater treatment. This will prevent excessive street runoff with potential trash and toxic car fluids from entering Rohner and Strongs Creeks, and thus the Eel River. The project will also mitigate street flooding during storm events, thereby reducing inflow into the sanitary sewer system, which can negatively impact treatment efficiency at the WWTP. In addition, it will improve fish passage conditions and reduce channel erosion and flooding downstream in Rohner Creek by helping to mitigate peak flows from the tributary urban watershed. The project will also increase pedestrian safety by shortening crossing distances near the High School and provide a traffic calming effect (reduced vehicular speed). The project will improve the visual aesthetic as a Gateway to Fortuna with typical LID grasses and ornamental plants and trees.

Is the project located within, or does it benefit, an Environmental Justice community, a Disadvantaged Community, or a community that has a financial hardship? If yes, describe.

Yes, the project will benefit the City of Fortuna, which is a disadvantaged community.

Will this project further the State Water Board's core value of the human right to water? If yes, describe.

No.

Optional information. If appropriate, discuss the following:

- Whether this project is resilient to climate change and conforms with State Water Board Resolution No. 2017-0012, Comprehensive Response to Climate Change (give link)
- Whether this project can be the basis for additional funding from other sources

- Whether this project is required by another entity or agency
- Whether this project has monitoring, success criteria, or other tools to track long-term success
- Whether the applicant has an established record of completing projects with the Water Board or other agencies
- Whether the applicant has the institutional stability and capacity to complete the project as proposed

The City of Fortuna has a successful history of proposing and completing Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs) with the State Water Board. For instance, in 2012 the City constructed a Low Impact Development (LID) demonstration project on a City-owned parking lot, produced an educational video promoting LID benefits, options and techniques, and produced a Stormwater Quality Manual for development projects within the City, focusing on LID benefits.

The City also has a successful history of developing and implementing projects using various other grant funding sources, including projects delivered using Prop 68, FEMA Hazard Mitigation, CDFW FRGP, and Clean Water SRF.

The City has a core team of public works and engineering project managers that have been involved in these efforts in various capacities over the past 10-15 years, and this internal team would continue to play a key role in ensuring the successful delivery of this project.